



1806

## Accuratio evolutio problematis de linea brevissima in superficie quacunq̄ue ducenda

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Record Created:

2018-09-25

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### Recommended Citation

Euler, Leonhard, "Accuratio evolutio problematis de linea brevissima in superficie quacunq̄ue ducenda" (1806). *Euler Archive - All Works by Eneström Number*. 727.  
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ACCURATIOR EVOLUTIO  
 PROBLEMATIS DE LINEA BREVISSIMA  
 IN SUPERFICIE QUACUNQUE DUCENDA

AUCTORE  
 L. E U L E R O.

Conyentui exhibita die 25. Januarii 1779.

§ 1.

Pro superficie, in qua lineam brevissimam duci oportet, data sit inter ternas coordinatas orthogonales  $x, y, z$ , haec aequatio differentialis:  $dz = f dx + g dy$ , ubi  $f$  et  $g$  sint functiones binarum  $x$  et  $y$ , ita ut sit  $df = \alpha dx + \beta dy$  et  $dg = \beta dx + \gamma dy$ . His positis, cum lineae cuiuscunque in hac superficie ductae elementum sit  $\sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2}$ , loco  $dz$  hoc valore posito erit elementum istius curvae  $= \sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2 + (f dx + g dy)^2}$ ; unde si statuamus  $dy = p dx$ , hoc elementum erit  $dx \sqrt{1 + pp + (f + gp)^2}$ .

§ 2. Formula igitur integralis, quam ad minimum revocari oportet, erit  $\int dx \sqrt{1 + pp + (f + gp)^2}$ , quam in Tractatu meo: *Methodus inveniendi lineas curvas Maximi Minimive proprietate gaudentes*, in genere per  $\int Z dx$  indicavi, ita ut pro hoc casu sit  $Z = \sqrt{1 + pp + (f + gp)^2}$ . Tum vero, posito  $dZ = M dx + N dy + P dp$ , ostendi naturam Minimi, vel Maximi hac aequatione exprimi:  $N dx = dP$ , quam ergo patet ad differentialia secundi gradus assurgere.

§. 3. Cum igitur sit  $Z^2 = 1 + pp + (f + gp)^2$ , differentietur haec formula, ac distinguantur triplicis generis elementa, scilicet  $\partial x$ ,  $\partial y$ ,  $\partial p$ , hocque modo reperietur:

$$Z \partial Z = \partial x (\alpha + \beta p) (f + gp) + \partial y (\beta + \gamma p) (f + gp) + \partial p (p + g (f + gp)).$$

Cum igitur in genere posuerim  $\partial Z = M \partial x + N \partial y + P \partial p$ , hoc casu habebimus:

$$M = \frac{(\alpha + \beta p) (f + gp)}{Z}$$

$$N = \frac{(\beta + \gamma p) (f + gp)}{Z}$$

$$P = \frac{p + g (f + gp)}{Z}$$

Hinc ergo (ob  $\beta \partial x + \gamma p \partial x = \partial g$ ) fiet  $N \partial x = \frac{\partial g (f + gp)}{Z}$ ,

unde aequatio pro curua nostra quaesita erit  $\frac{\partial g (f + gp)}{Z}$

$= \partial \cdot \frac{p + g (f + gp)}{Z}$ . Pro qua aequatione evoluenda ponatur

brevitatis gratia  $p + g (f + gp) = S$ , atque habebimus:

$$\frac{\partial g (f + gp)}{Z} = \frac{\partial S}{Z} - \frac{S \partial Z}{Z^2}, \text{ siue}$$

$$\partial g (f + gp) = \partial S - \frac{S \partial Z}{Z}.$$

Quia igitur est  $\partial S = \partial p + \partial g (f + gp) + g \cdot \partial (f + gp)$ , erit nostra aequatio  $0 = \partial p + g \partial (f + gp) - \frac{S \partial Z}{Z}$ . Porro vero est:

$$\frac{\partial Z}{Z} = \frac{p \partial p + (f + gp) \partial (f + gp)}{1 + pp + (f + gp)^2}, \text{ quod multiplicari debet per}$$

$S = p + g (f + gp)$ . Hinc multiplicando per denominatorem  $1 + pp + (f + gp)^2$ , habebimus:

$$0 = \partial p + (g - fp) \partial (f + gp) - gp \partial f (f + gp) + \partial p (f + gp)^2$$

seu  $0 = \partial p + (g - fp) \partial (f + gp) + f \partial p (f + gp)$ , quae aequatio porro transmutatur in hanc formam:

$$0 = \partial p (1 + ff + gg) + (g - fp) (\partial f + p \partial g).$$

§ 4. Quoniam haec aequatio satis est simplex, tamen non patet, quomodo eam ad differentialia primi gradus revocare liceat. Observavi autem sequenti substitutione negotium confici posse, scilicet:  $v = \frac{g - fp}{f + gp}$ ; unde fit  $p = \frac{g - fv}{gv + f}$ , hinc iam differentiando deducitur  $\partial p = - \frac{(ff + gg) \partial v + (1 + vv)(f \partial g - g \partial f)}{(f + gv)^2}$ .

Porro erit  $g - fp = \frac{v(ff + gg)}{f + gv}$ , denique

$$\partial f + p \partial g = \frac{f \partial f + g \partial g + v(g \partial f - f \partial g)}{f + gv},$$

quibus substitutis aequatio prodit:

$$0 = - \partial v (ff + gg) (1 + ff + gg) + v (ff + gg) (f \partial f + g \partial g) + (1 + vv) (f \partial g - g \partial f) + (ff + gg) (f \partial g - g \partial f).$$

§ 5. Ad hanc aequationem simpliciolem reddendam statuamus  $ff + gg = hh$ , eritque  $f \partial f + g \partial g = h \partial h$ , deinde vero sit  $\frac{g}{f} = k$ , ut fiat  $f \partial g - g \partial f = ff \partial k$ , sicque aequatio nostra contrahetur in hanc formam:

$$0 = - hh \partial v (1 + hh) + h^3 v \partial h + (1 + hh + vv) ff \partial k.$$

Cum autem  $g = fk$ , erit  $ff (1 + kk) = hh$ , ideoque  $ff = \frac{hh}{1 + kk}$ , unde habebimus:

$$0 = - \partial v (1 + hh) + v h \partial h + (1 + hh + vv) \frac{\partial k}{1 + kk}$$

quae aequatio porro, ponendo  $v = s \sqrt{1 + hh}$ , reducitur ad hanc formam:

$$0 = - \partial s \sqrt{1 + hh} + \frac{\partial k (1 + ss)}{1 + kk}.$$

Nunc igitur quantitatem  $s$  a reliquis separatam exhibere licet, cum sit  $\frac{\partial s}{1 + ss} = \frac{\partial k}{(1 + kk) \sqrt{1 + hh}}$ , quae forma simplicissima esse videtur, ad quam in genere pertinere licet.

§ 6. Quoniam autem hic binas variables  $y$  et  $x$  per eandem  $z$  determinare sumus conati, cum tamen omnes tres aequali ratione in calculum ingrediantur, universam hanc quaestionem ita tractare mihi est visum, ut omnes formulae pari ratione tres coordinatas  $x, y, z$  involuant, quo pacto speculationi potius consulatur, quam usui, hancque ob rem investigationes sequentes subiungam.

### Supplementum.

§ 7. Pro superficie data sit haec aequatio differentialis:  $p\partial x + q\partial y + r\partial z = 0$ , ubi  $p, q, r$  sint functiones coordinatarum  $x, y, z$ ; unde, ut aequatio sit possibilis, haec conditio inesse debet:

$$\frac{p\partial q - q\partial p}{\partial z} + \frac{q\partial r - r\partial q}{\partial x} + \frac{r\partial p - p\partial r}{\partial y} = 0.$$

Hoc posito pro linea brevissima in hac superficie ducenda sequens habebitur aequatio, quam ternae coordinatae  $x, y, z$  pari ratione ingrediuntur:

$$\partial\partial x(q\partial z - r\partial y) + \partial\partial y(r\partial x - p\partial z) + \partial\partial z(p\partial y - q\partial x) = 0.$$

Vel si brevitatis gratia ponamus:

$$\partial y\partial\partial z - \partial z\partial\partial y = f;$$

$$\partial z\partial\partial x - \partial x\partial\partial z = g;$$

$$\partial x\partial\partial y - \partial y\partial\partial x = h;$$

erit  $fp + gq + hr = 0$ ; tum vero etiam  $f\partial x + g\partial y + h\partial z = 0$ . Deinde si elementum curvae brevissimae ponatur  $= \partial s$ , erit  $\partial s^2 = \partial x^2 + \partial y^2 + \partial z^2$ ; tum vero quoque

$$\frac{\partial\partial s}{\partial s} = \frac{q\partial\partial z - r\partial\partial y}{q\partial z - r\partial y} = \frac{r\partial\partial x - p\partial\partial z}{r\partial x - p\partial z} = \frac{p\partial\partial y - q\partial\partial x}{p\partial y - q\partial x}.$$

Appli-

## Applicatio ad superficiem sphaericam.

§ 8. Sit aequatio pro hac superficie  $x\,dx + y\,dy + z\,dz = 0$ , ita ut hic habeamus  $p = x$ ,  $q = y$ ,  $r = z$ , et prima aequatio pro linea brevissima erit sequens:

$$\partial\partial x(y\,dz - z\,dy) + \partial\partial y(z\,dx - x\,dz) + \partial\partial z(x\,dy - y\,dx) = 0,$$

cuius ergo integrale completum est  $\alpha x + \beta y + \gamma z = 0$ , uti ex rei natura patet. Quaestio igitur huc redit, quomodo hoc integrale erui possit.

§ 9. Cum iam altera aequatio sit  $fx + gy + hz = 0$ , si pro hac aequatione ponamus  $\Pi = \frac{z\,dx - x\,dz}{y\,dx - x\,dy}$ , erit  $\partial\Pi = d \cdot \frac{z\,dx - x\,dz}{y\,dx - x\,dy}$ , ideoque  $\partial\Pi = \frac{z\,\partial dx - x\,\partial dz}{y\,dx - x\,dy} - \frac{(z\,dx - x\,dz)(y\,\partial dx - x\,\partial dy)}{(y\,dx - x\,dy)^2}$ , sive evoluendo

$$\partial\Pi = \frac{x}{(y\,dx - x\,dy)^2} [(\partial y\,\partial dz - \partial z\,\partial dy)x + (\partial x\,\partial dx - \partial x\,\partial dz)y + (\partial x\,\partial dy - \partial y\,\partial dx)^2]$$

et introductis  $f, g, h$ , erit  $\partial\Pi = x \frac{(fx + gy + hz)}{(y\,dx - x\,dy)^2}$ . Cum autem sit

$fx + gy + hz = 0$ , erit  $\partial\Pi = 0$ , ideoque  $\Pi$  quantitas constans, quam si statuamus  $= A$ , erit aequatio differentialis primi gradus  $\Pi = \frac{z\,dx - x\,dz}{y\,dx - x\,dy}$ , ita expressa:  $A(y\,dx - x\,dy)$

$= z\,dx - x\,dz$ , quae divisa per  $xx$  erit integrabilis; fiet enim  $\frac{A\,y}{x} = \frac{z}{x} + B$ , sive  $Ay - Bx - z = 0$ , vel mutatis constantibus  $\alpha x + \beta y + \gamma z = 0$ , quae aequatio cum sit pro plano quocunque per centrum sphaerae ducto, in superficie sphaerica nascentur circuli maximi; unde sequitur omnes circulos maximos esse lineas brevissimas omnium, quae in superficie sphaerae duci possunt.

§ 10. Quoniam in huiusmodi calculis omnia ad unicam variabilem reduci solent, si pro hoc efficiendo ponamus  $dy = tdx$  et  $dz = udx$ , sumto  $dx$  pro constante, erit prima aequatio vt sequitur:

$$\partial t (r - pu) + \partial u (pt - q) = 0.$$

At aequatio pro superficie erit  $p + qt + ru = 0$ ; unde cum hinc fiat  $p = -qt - ru$ , prior aequatio hanc induet formam:

$$\partial t (r + qtn + ruu) - \partial u (q + rtu + qtt) = 0.$$

Porro erit

$$f = \partial x^2 (t\partial u - u\partial t); \quad g = -\partial x^2 \partial u; \quad h = \partial x^2 \partial t;$$

tum vero  $\partial s^2 = \partial x^2 (1 + tt + uu)$ , et denique

$$\frac{\partial \partial s}{\partial s} = \frac{t\partial t + u\partial u}{1 + tt + uu} = \frac{q\partial u - r\partial t}{qu - rt} = \frac{-p\partial u}{r - pu} = \frac{p\partial t}{pt - q}.$$

§ 11. At si malimus quartam quandam variabilem, puta angulum  $\Phi$  introducere, ponendo  $dx = t\partial\Phi$ ;  $dy = u\partial\Phi$ ;  $dz = v\partial\Phi$ ; aequatio pro superficie erit  $pt + qu + rv = 0$ . Porro pro litteris  $f, g, h$ , habebimus

$$f = \partial\Phi^2 (u\partial v - v\partial u)$$

$$g = \partial\Phi^2 (v\partial t - t\partial v)$$

$$h = \partial\Phi^2 (t\partial u - u\partial t)$$

hinc ergo erit  $ft + gu + hv = 0$ . Aequatio pro linea brevissima erit:

$$fp + gq + hr = p(u\partial v - v\partial u) + q(v\partial t - t\partial v) + r(t\partial u - u\partial t) = 0,$$

denique fiet  $\partial s^2 = \partial\Phi^2 (tt + uu + vv)$ , ideoque

$$\frac{\partial \partial s}{\partial s} = \frac{t\partial t + u\partial u + v\partial v}{tt + uu + vv} = \frac{q\partial v - r\partial u}{qv - ru} = \frac{r\partial t - p\partial v}{rt - pv} = \frac{p\partial u - q\partial t}{pu - qt}.$$

quae ergo hanc induit formam:

$$-\partial\pi(1+pp+qq) + \partial p(\pi p - q) + \pi\partial q(\pi p - q) = 0, \text{ seu}$$

$$\partial\pi(1+pp+qq) + (\partial p + \pi\partial q)(q - \pi p) = 0.$$

§ 16. Quoniam in hac aequatione potissimum binae formulae  $p + \pi q$  et  $q - \pi p$  occurrunt, plurimum iuuabit rationem inter eas inducere. Statuatur hunc in finem  $\frac{q - \pi p}{p + \pi q} = v$ , unde iam fit  $\pi = \frac{q - vp}{p + vq}$ ; tum vero vicissim  $q - \pi p = \frac{v(pp + qq)}{p + vq}$ , porro autem erit  $\partial p + \pi\partial q = \frac{p\partial p + q\partial q + v(q\partial p - p\partial q)}{p + vq}$ .

Si nunc ponatur  $q = up$ , erit  $\pi = \frac{u - v}{1 + uv}$ , hincque

$$\partial\pi = \frac{\partial u(1+uv) - \partial v(1+uu)}{(1+uv)^2}. \text{ Ponatur porro } pp + qq = tt,$$

et cum sit  $q = up$ , erit  $pp = \frac{tt}{1+uu}$  et  $\partial \frac{q}{p} = \partial u = \frac{p\partial q - q\partial p}{pp}$ , hincque

$$p\partial q - q\partial p = pp\partial u = \frac{tt\partial u}{1+uu},$$

quibus valoribus substitutis, ob  $q = \pi p = \frac{vt}{p(1+uv)}$  et

$$\partial p + \pi\partial q = \frac{t\partial t - (vt\partial u)(1+uu)}{p(1+uv)}, \text{ erit}$$

$$0 = -\frac{(\partial u(1+uv) - \partial v(1+uu))(1+tt)}{(1+uv)^2} - \frac{vt(t(1+uu)\partial t - vt\partial u)}{pp(1+uu)(1+uv)^2}$$

sive

$$(1+tt)(\partial u(1+uv) - \partial v(1+uu)) + vt((1+uu)\partial t - vt\partial u) = 0,$$

quae aequatio porro reducitur ad hanc formam:

$$\partial u((1+uv)(1+tt) - vvt) - \partial v(1+tt)(1+uu) + vt\partial t(1+uu) = 0,$$

sive ad hanc concinnioem:

$$\frac{\partial u}{1+uv}(1+uv+tt) - \partial v(1+tt) + vt\partial t = 0.$$

Ponatur nunc  $v = w\sqrt{1+tt}$ , eritque  $\partial w = \frac{\partial v(1+tt) - v\partial t}{(1+tt)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$

seu



seu erit  $\partial v (1 + tt) - vt \partial t = (1 + tt)^{\frac{3}{2}} \partial w$ ;  
 tum vero erit

$$1 + tt + vv = (1 + tt)(1 + ww),$$

quibus substitutis aequatio nostra ita se habebit

$$\frac{\partial u}{1 + uu} (1 + tt) (1 + ww) - (1 + tt)^{\frac{3}{2}} \partial w = 0,$$

hinc separando nanciscimur  $\frac{\partial u}{1 + uu} = \frac{\partial w \sqrt{1 + tt}}{1 + ww}$ , consequenter

$$\frac{\partial w}{1 + ww} = \frac{\partial u}{(1 + uu) \sqrt{1 + tt}},$$

quae ergo aequatio semper integrari potest, quoties  $t$  fuerit  
 functio ipsius  $u$ , sive quoties  $pp + qq$  fuerit functio ipsius  $\frac{q}{p}$ , sive  
 $q$  functio ipsius  $p$ .

§ 17. Evenit autem, ut  $q$  sit functio ipsius  $p$ , primo  
 si  $z$  et  $y$  ita determinantur per  $x$  et aliam novam variabilem  
 $\omega$ , ut sit  $y = Ax$  et  $z = Bx$ , existentibus  $A$  et  $B$  functionibus  
 quibuscunque ipsius  $\omega$ . Cum ergo posuerimus  $\partial z = p \partial x + q \partial y$ , erit

$$B \partial x + x \partial B = p \partial x + q A \partial x + q x \partial A,$$

ubi terminos differentiale  $\partial x$  involuentes seorsim inter se com-  
 parari oportet, unde fit  $p = B - Aq$ ; et comparatis seorsim  
 terminis ipsam quantitatem  $x$  continentibus, erit  $q = \frac{\partial B}{\partial A}$ , ideo-  
 que  $p = \frac{B \partial A - A \partial B}{\partial A}$ . Sicque  $p$  et  $q$  sunt functiones ipsius  $\omega$ , ideo-  
 que et  $tt = pp + qq$  et  $u = \frac{q}{p}$  erunt functiones eiusdem quan-  
 titatis  $\omega$ , et  $\sqrt{1 + tt}$  erit functio ipsius  $u$ . Quocirca aequa-  
 tio supra inventa pro linea brevissima integrationem admittit.  
 Hoc autem casu, quo scilicet  $y = Ax$  et  $z = Bx$ , prodit su-  
 perficies conica super basi quacunque constructa.

§ 18. Aequatio supra tradita porro fit integrabilis statuendo  $y = Ax + C$  et  $z = Bx + D$ ; tum enim erit

$$\partial z = p\partial x + q\partial y = B\partial x + x\partial B + \partial D.$$

et quia  $\partial y = A\partial x + x\partial A + \partial C$ , erit etiam

$$\partial z = p\partial x + q\partial y = p\partial x + Aq\partial x + xq\partial A + q\partial C$$

ideoque, comparatis inter se membris ipsam quantitatem  $x$  continentibus, tum vero iis quae differentiali  $\partial x$  affecta sunt, erit

$$B = p + Aq \text{ et } \partial B = q\partial A$$

hinc  $q = \frac{\partial B}{\partial A}$  et  $p = \frac{B\partial A - A\partial B}{\partial A}$ . Praeterea vero esse debet

$\partial D = q\partial C = \frac{\partial B\partial C}{\partial A}$ , sive functiones  $A, B, C, D$ , ita debent

esse comparatae ut  $\partial A\partial D = \partial B\partial C$ , quod si contigerit, erunt iterum  $p$  et  $q$  functiones eiusdem variabilis  $\omega$ , hincque erit etiam

$\sqrt{1 + tt}$  functio ipsius  $u$ , quo ergo casu quoque lineam brevissimam definire licebit. Hic vero casus complecti videtur omnes plane superficies, quae in planum explicari possunt.